

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
LUBBOCK DIVISION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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§

v.

CASE NO: 5:25-CR-010-H-BV-1

ERNEST BRAWLEY

§

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION ON PLEA  
BEFORE THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

The defendant, by consent and under the authority of *United States v. Dees*, 125 F.3d 261 (5th Cir. 1997), appeared with counsel for the purpose of entering a plea of guilty under **Rule 11(c)(1)(B)** of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. This Report and Recommendation is submitted to the Court under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(3).

The defendant was placed under oath and examined in open court concerning the subjects of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The defendant was advised regarding each subject and affirmed his/her understanding of each subject. Pursuant to a written plea agreement with the government, the defendant pled guilty **under Rule 11(c)(1)(B)** to Count One of the Indictment, charging a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1709—Theft of Mail by a United States Postal Service Employee.

After examining the defendant under oath, I find that:

1. The defendant, upon advice of counsel, consented orally and in writing to enter this guilty plea before a magistrate judge subject to final approval and sentencing by the presiding district judge;
2. The defendant fully understands the nature of the charges, including each essential element of the offense(s) charged, and the associated penalties;
3. The defendant fully understands the terms of the plea agreement and

plea agreement supplement;

4. The defendant understands all his/her constitutional and statutory rights and wishes to waive these rights, including the right to a trial by jury and the right to appear before a United States district judge;
5. The defendant's plea is made freely and voluntarily;
6. The defendant is competent to enter this plea of guilty; and
7. There is a factual basis to support this plea.

Based on the foregoing, I conclude that the plea of guilty is knowing, voluntary, and supported by an independent basis in fact containing each of the essential elements of the offense. **The plea agreement in this case contains a nonbinding sentencing recommendation under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B). The defendant understands that this recommendation is not binding on the Court, and that defendant will not be allowed to withdraw the defendant's plea of guilty if the recommendation is not adopted.** I recommend that the defendant's guilty plea be accepted, that the defendant be adjudged guilty, and that sentence be imposed accordingly.

Although I have conducted these proceedings and accepted the defendant's guilty plea, the United States district judge has the power to review my actions and possesses final decision-making authority in this proceeding. Thus, if the defendant has any objections to these findings or any other action of the undersigned, he is required to make those known to the United States district judge within fourteen (14) days of today.

Signed: March 26, 2025.

  
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**AMANDA 'AMY' R. BURCH**  
**UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**